Synopsis of the Proposed Thesis,

# The Portrayal of War and Destruction in the Selected Novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller and Vasily Grossman: A Comparative Study

Submitted To

**Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University,**

**Nanded, Maharashtra.**

For the Degree of

**Doctor of Philosophy in English**

Under the Faculty of Arts


**Research Scholar**

**Mr Jadhav Ganesh Shankarrao**

(M. A., B. Ed., SET)

**Research Supervisor**

**Dr. Kiran Wamanrao Gutte**

(M. A., M. Phil., PhD.)

Asst. Professor, Department of English, Shivaji Mahavidyalaya, Udgir Dist-Latur (M.S.)

# 1) Introduction:

War literature has existed since the first literary works were written. Scholars have quickly recognized that war is a major force in the work of the three ancient cultures of Greek, Roman, and Hebrew. **Homer's *"The Iliad"*** and the ***"Odyssey"*** reflect the culture ofwar, as in **Virgil's *"The Enid"*** and the ***"Hebrew Bible"***. Even the most ancient **Sumerian epic**, ***Gilgamesh***, contains an epic battle with an enemy army that must be defeated. This literature and many other things spread over the centuries from the classical period remind us that war is a constant in society and a subject that will continue to ensure serious debate.It is as universal as love or death or time or human weakness. The recent proliferation of research on war reminds us that war is still a contemporary subject and a popular subject forpublishing war literature. Since 1890, war literature has produced nearly 23,000 books, essays, dissertations, and other materials - many to be counted in this select article - as wellas specialized collections of war materials on various universities, journals and journal issues, and several conference sessions. After the first century of research, especially in the1980s and 1990s, a growing number of researchers began to write passionately about war and literature, and their efforts continued into the 21st century. The wars they treat are oftenknown to the general public. For example, the American Civil War, the Spanish AmericanWar, the First World War, the Second World War, the Holocaust, the Cold War, the AtomicAge, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, India- Pakistan War, India-China War, Kargil War,and so on. Ongoing conflicts in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan, and Ukraine-Russia War. Scholars have also treated lesser-known conflicts, such as the Boer War, the Hundred Years War, the English Civil War, the American Revolution, and the War of 1812the US-Mexican War, the Chaco War, Zimbabwe's Liberation War, and the New Zealand Wars. War literature takes a variety of approaches to understand war experiences and includes research in a variety of genres, including poetry, plays, short stories, novels, journals, diaries, oral histories, memoirs, and letters. While the initial study focused only on white male soldiers, it gradually included gender and minority studies, trauma studies, bi-culturalstudies, the effects of war on the home front, the importance of the human body, and even graphic novels. In the United States, on September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City, the Mumbai terror attack in 2008 as well as other acts of terrorism around the world, created a new chapter in the literature on the war on terror.

Traditionally, the subject of war has been used by the artist as a framework for examining personal consciousness about the environment and other persons, like any other.The concept of war as part of the natural growth of mankind was accepted by novelists before the First World War in general, a contradiction in works such as **Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*** and **Leo. Tolstoy's *War and Peace***, These books, despite the wide variety of treatments, were firmly traditional in the treatment of war as a narrative framework. And precisely, as a descriptive tool, the atmosphere of war, especially in the novel, has advantages: the qualities of intensity, pathos, dramatic paradoxical action and crisis were ready-packaged. Critics, however, were free to focus on the aesthetic composition of certain books, as long as the authors themselves used war as a standard literary theme.

The war novel came of age during the 20th century, with works like **Erich Maria Remarque's** *"All Quiet on the Western Front (1929)"*, which features World War First, and **Joseph Heller's** *Catch-22(1961),* which deals with World War II, **Vasily Grossman's** *"Life and Fate"(1980)* which deals with identity and Holocaust, humanity andreality, and Reality of war. All of these works feature realistic depictions of major battles, scenes of wartime horror and atrocities, Honor, Duty, Heroism, Loss of Innocence, Blame, Revenge, Justice, and significant insights into the nature of heroism and cowardice, as wellas the exploration of moral questions.

The purpose of the present research work is to conduct in-depth research, analysis, interpretation, critical appreciation, and comparative study of selected war novels. War hasbeen an important subject of analysis throughout the ages. In the late 20th century, after thetwo world wars and in the shadow of the nuclear, biological, and chemical Holocaust, morewas written on the subject than ever before. It is very important to create some research to try to understand the nature of war, its causes, conduct, and prevention, as research shapes human expectations and determines human behaviour. The various schools of research are generally aware of the profound effects on their lives, and their writings usually contain a strong standard factor, because when accepted by politicians, their ideas can take on the characteristics of self-fulfilling prophecies. Analysis of war can be divided into several categories. Philosophical, political, economic, technological, legal, sociological, and psychological approaches are often separated. These differences represent different centresof interest and different analytical categories assigned by the researchers, but most of the actual research is mixed because war is a very complex social phenomenon that cannot be explained by any one factor or anyone's point of view.

# Selected War Novelists and Their Works:

## 1) Erich Maria Remarque

He was a German novelist. He was born on 22 June 1898 and died on 25 September 1970. During World War I, Remark enlisted in the German Imperial Army at the age of 18. OnJune 12, 1917, he was transferred to the Western Front, Second Company, Reserve, Field Depot, and 2nd Guards Reserve Division at Hem-Langlet. On June 26, 1917, he was assignedto the 15th Reserve Infantry Regiment, 2nd Company, Engineer Platoon Bethe, and fought in the trenches between Torhout and Houthalst. His landmark novel is ***"All Quiet on the WesternFront" (1929).***

**His Selected War Novel**

### *"All Quiet on the Western Front" (1929)*

This classic World War I war novel was written by a young German soldier in the firstperson. Paul Boer is just eighteen years old when he was pressured by his family, friends, andcommunity to sign up for the front and fight. He enlists in the army with six school friends, each full of optimism and patriotism. In a few months, they are all old men, not physically butmentally. They have witnessed such horrors and endured so much pain and suffering that theycould not talk about it with anyone but each other.

## 2) Joseph Heller

He was an American author. He was a novelist, short-story writer, playwright, and screen playwright. He was born on 1 May 1923 and died on 12, 1999. His best work is the 1961novel Catch-22, a caricature of war and bureaucracy, the title of which has become synonymous with silly or contradictory choices. His notable works are "*Something Happened"(1974), "Good as Gold" (1979), "God Knows" (1984), "Picture This" (1988) "Portrait of anArtist, as an Old Man" (2000).*

**His Selected War Novel**

### *"Catch-22" (1961)*

The novel is about the ridiculous accusation of military madness and stupidity and the common man's desire to live it. The novel is set in the last months of World War II, this is thestory of a bombardier named Yossarian who is furious because thousands of people who havenever met him are trying to kill him. The novel examines the folly of war and military life fromthe experiences of Yossarian and his colleagues, who try to maintain their conscience while meeting the requirements of their service so that they can return home.

## 3) Vasily Grossman

He was born into a **Jewish family in Ukraine**, then part of the Russian Empire, Grossman trained as a chemical engineer at Moscow State University, earning him thenickname Vasya-Khimik ("Vasya the Chemist") for his hard work as a student. After graduation, he accepted a job at Stalino (now Donetsk) in the Donets Basin. In the 1930s, he changed careers and began writing full-time, publishing several short stories and several novels. At the outbreak of World War II, he was involved as a war correspondent for the Red Army newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda; He wrote first-hand articles on the wars in Moscow, Stalingrad, Kursk, and Berlin. Grossman's eyewitness account of the Nazi extermination campafter the discovery of Treblinka was one of the earliest reports of a Nazi execution camp by a journalist.

**His Selected War Novel**

### *"Life and Fate"* (1980)

***"Life and Fate"*** is the epitome of World War II and an in-depth account of the dark forces that dominated the twentieth century. In the Transfixing Account of the Battle of Stalingrad, with the story of a middle-class family, Shaposhnikov's fate scattered from Germany to Siberia, Vasily Grossman has created a vast, intricately detailed tapestry that is almost unimaginably frightening and even bizarre. Hope, life, and luck are matched by the bedroom and the sniper's nest, the scientific lab, and the gulag, which penetrates deep into thehearts and minds of the characters, from a child to a gas chamber to Hitler and Stalin himself. A novel of unparalleled realism and far-sighted moral intensity, it is one of the greatest achievements of modern Russian literature.

# 2) Review of Literature:

'Literature Review' is an overview of previous research work on a particular topic. This section provides a brief overview of critical literature on selected war novels. A serious surveyof the subject reveals that our English literature lacks research on selected war novelists. ErichMaria Remark, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman are some of the important writers in our English literature.

1) **Vinod Kumar** worked on **'A STUDY OF THE MAJOR NOVELS RELATED TO SECOND WORLD WAR'** for the award of his Master of Philosophy in Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India.
2) **Rosemary Gallagher** worked on **'A CRITICAL APPROACH TO THE COMEDIC ANTI-WAR NOVELS OF JOSEPH HELLER, KURT VONNEGUT, TOM ROBBINS, AND TONY VIGORITO'** Submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English to the National University of Ireland, Galway, College of Arts, Social Sciences & Celtic Studies.
3) **Geetam Sarma** worked on **'THE WAR NOVEL - HEMINGWAY AND AFTER A STUDY OF THE NOVELS OF JAMES JONES, NORMAN MAILER AND JOSEPH HELLER'** submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in English to NORTH-EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY SHILLONG
4) **Vijayalakshmi Seshadri** worked on **'TWENTIETH CENTURY WAR POETRY BY ENGLISH POETS OP THE FIRST WORLD WAR, THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR'** A thesis submitted for the degree of DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY to the S.N.D.T. Women's University Bombay, 1989.
5) **A. Sudha** worked on **'TREATMENT OF WAR IN AMERICAN FICTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE SELECT NOVELS OF STEPHEN CRANE ERNEST HEMINGWAY JOHN DOS PASSOS IRWIN SHAW JAMES JONES AND JOSEPH HELLER NEWLINE'** thesis submitted for the degree of doctor of philosophy in English at University of Madras, 2007.

## 3) Gaps in the Existing Research:

A review of the literature reveals that earlier research was primarily focused on the warin the novel or the specific war in the novel. There is no previous research work on The Portrayal of War and Destruction in the Selected Novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman: A Comparative Study. Other research work has not involved Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman in their selective war novels study as comparatively. The previous research works were analysed from the perspective of major novels related to the Second World War, Anti-War novels, and Biafran war novels' points of view. So the review of the literature suggests that Destruction has not been studied from the perspective of a study of 20$^{th}$-century selective war novels.

## 4) Statement of Proposed Problem:

This study will provide a detailed interpretation and comparative analysis of selected novels from the 20$^{th}$-century war novels through aspects of destruction, innocence, humanity, distortion of reality and values, honour and identity, and the Holocaust. This comparative studywill find out the elements of blame, revenged lack of decision, disillusionment, depression, humanity, and the impact of war on civilians in the selected novels. It will study how the 20$^{th}$- century selective war novels impacted that era of situation, how was distracted the societyand loss of innocence, and how the war impacted social, political, economic, regional, physical,and psychological problems in past and present.

## 5) Scope of the Research Work:

This research will broadly deal with the War novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman. It would not be possible to conduct an extensive and exhaustivestudy, so the present research is limited to his ground-breaking war novels like ***"All Quiet on the Western Front", 'Catch-22", "Life and Fate".***

However, changes will be made to the actual dissertation as needed during the search journey. The research study will be completed within the stipulated time.

## 6) Relevance of the Research / Need and Significance of theResearch:

The present research work is relevant as it would undertake the scrutiny of different creative senilities of 20th-century war novels from the perspective of The Portrayal of War and Destruction in the Selected Novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman: A Comparative Study. This study is important because the search for such approaches is minimal.

Wars have changed since the early 20th century and so has the material of war. The study of post-conflict literature takes these changes seriously – and provides us with insights into how literature shapes our understanding of the pre-and post-conflict world. This topic is recognized that the wars were fought for many reasons, however, including racial ambitions, religious sectarianism, and political ideology. To understand how war works, a wide range of methods must be applied.

Selective war novelists have very brilliantly incorporated many themes into their novels. War is a terrible, bad thing, the worst disintegration of society is true, but it is still forced. War brings tales of bravery and prowess, of cowardice and pain, of friendship and hatred deeper than blood, which make human emotions almost false. It is no wonder that someof the best novels are set during this period of military conflict. To study social impacts might study the everyday experiences of rank-and-file soldiers or consider how the lives of the families of soldiers left behind changed.

It is necessary to study, interpret, and analyse a comparative study of 20$^{th}$-century war novels, whether inspired by the author's experience or a well-thought-out idea, great wartime novels immerse their readers in action and age, giving them a better understanding of what should be in them, not just the story and the characters. They don't like to live in such difficult times. And when successful, good war novels should inspire readers to love peace without war.

## 7) Objectives:

The present research work will explain the vital ideas of the concept of war novels to the readers, scholars, and researchers and they will be enabled by such ideas to understand the

importance of the concept of war novels. This research work also explains how human social, economic, physical, and psychological conditions. There are some following aims and objectives:

1) To study the form of the war novel with its history.
2) To study the concept of 20th-century war novels.
3) To study the impact of war on 20th-century war novels.
4) To trace the destruction from the war in the selected war novels of selected authors.
5) To study the facets of selective authors' writing.
6) To comparative study of war and destruction in the selected novels of Erich MariaRemarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman.

# 8) Hypothesis:

The hypothesis is a temporary answer to this research problem. Therefore, the current research work assumes the following.

- It is assumed that the war novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and VasilyGrossman indicate the hidden issues of society.
- It is strongly believed that these novels deal with the issues of the destruction of civilians,blame, revenge, loss of innocence, distracted society mental disturbance, and so on.
- These war novelists strongly depict these kinds of issues in society through their warnovels.

# 9) Research methodology:

Analytical, comparative, and explanatory methods will be used for the present study. A close reading of primary and secondary sources will be explained. Discussions will be held with researchers conducting similar studies. Authors and witnesses to enhance primary resources If possible war interviews will be conducted or interviews from genuine media sources will be used for this purpose. The research method will be followed by the MLA handbook.

# 10) Tentative Chapter Scheme:

## Chapter I: Introduction

The introductory chapter focuses on the detailed study of war literature. This chapter also deals with 20th-century war novels. It will also focus on the survey of the literature or review of the literature. There would be a discussion of research done on the work of 20th-century warnovels within different literary theories by different researchers. In the present chapter, we willlook at the overall effect of war on literature which some historians or some writers have described as the dark side of the war or the realities of war as well as some writers have madeglory about war. We also see how literature underlines the correlation between war and humandevelopment.

## Chapter II: The Portrayal of War and Destruction in Erich Maria Remarque's *"All Quiet on the Western Front"*

***"All Quiet on the Western Front"*** is a novel by Erich Maria Remark, a German veteranof World War I. The book describes the extreme physical and mental stress of German soldiersduring the war and the detachment of many of them from civilian life. On returning home fromthe front.

In this chapter, we will study the traumatic events that took place during the First World War. ***"All Quiet on the Western Front" (1929),*** the book describes the extreme physical and mentalstress of German soldiers during the war and their detachment from civilian life when many ofthem return home. This novel's aspect of horrors and so much pain and suffering that could nottalk about it with anyone.

## Chapter III: The Portrayal of War and Destruction in Joseph Heller's *"Catch-22"*

***"Catch-22"***, a satirical war novel by American author Joseph Heller, was published in1961. The novel is set during World War II, from 1942 to 1944. Captain John Yossarian, an American bombardier stationed on a Mediterranean island during World War I and trying to keep his introspective efforts alive. Yosessiany interprets the whole war as a personal attack and he is convinced that the military is deliberately trying to send him to his death. So he keepsan eye out for more inventive ways to get out of their missions.

"Catch-22" is a problem for which the only solution is denied because of the circumstances involved in the problem or according to the rules." For example, losing something is usually a traditional problem; to solve it, he searches for the lost item until it is found. But if the lost object is one's spectacles, no one can look for it - Catch-22. The term "catch-22" is used more broadly to mean not a difficult problem or victory or a situation of stupidity.

## Chapter IV: The Portrayal of War and Destruction in Vasily Grossman's *"Lifeand Fate"*

***"Life and Fate"*** is the epitome of World War II and an in-depth account of the dark forces that dominated the twentieth century. In the Transfixing Account of the Battle of Stalingrad, with the story of a middle-class family, Shaposhnikov's fate scattered from Germany to Siberia, Vasily Grossman creates a vast, intricately detailed tapestry that goes almost unimaginably frightening and even bizarre. Hope, life, and luck are matched by the bedroom and the sniper's nest, the scientific lab, and the gulag, which penetrates deep into thehearts and minds of the characters, from a child to a gas chamber to Hitler and Stalin himself. A novel of unparalleled realism and far-sighted moral intensity, it is one of the greatest achievements of modern Russian literature.

In the late autumn and winter of 1942-43, most events of ***"Life and Fate"*** take place in the Soviet Union. It was the period between Operation Blue and Operation Fischreiher, the secondyear of Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union by Operation Barbarossa; it was the timeof the Battle of Stalingrad. But, as much as it happens as part of World War II, it happens as part of the history of Stalinist Russia.

Hitler and Stalin had earlier signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, which seemed to be beneficial to both of them. However, on June 22, 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union and cancelled the unilateral agreement. Much speculation has been made about the Soviet response.But, whatever the reason for this response, it was not ready for what happened; In the late 1930s, Stalin's military cleanup had severely weakened the military, and Stalin's intelligence was drained by his fear of telling Stalin what he did not want to hear. So even though they have increased military spending, they do not yet have an army that can benefit from it. This was exacerbated by a change in the command structure introduced by Stalin after the purification of 1937 and was maintained for a longer period until 1942. Political commissars worked alongside military commanders.

Nazi concentration camps are mentioned at different times in life and destiny. A long stretch of Life and Fate is about the German prison camp, where several containers are on theirway to fill the gas chambers; this is followed by a dialogue with Nazi officials who rank in thenew gas chamber and toast its opening. The characters, sent to Germany, were captured leavingone of the countries under the Nazi regime. Grossman's inclusion is historically accurate, as there are records of many Russians in Nazi labour and death camps. Grossman includes another German concentration camp where his main arguments are on communism and fascism. Grossman devotes a large portion of the book to prisoners held in Soviet and German labour and concentration camps, which are essential for a holistic understanding of time and events.

## Chapter V: A Comparative Analysis of the Selected Novels of Eric Maria Remark, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman

As far as the selected novels of Erich Maria Remarque, Joseph Heller, and Vasily Grossman are concerned, they talk about the 20th century's war novels, but their way of expression is different. Erich Maria Remarque explains that the selected war novel is about horror, pain, suffering, and the correlation between war and human development.

Joseph Heller explains that the selected novel war is a personal attack, inevitable death, and military mission. Vasily Grossman's novel explains the conflict of human identity, the Holocaust, and the reflection of the author's own life.

This Chapter will compare the thematic articulation, character representation, and writing style of selected war novelists based on queer social, political, economic, psychological, physical, cultural, and regional conceptions. The selected novels of these writersare filled with victory, intervention (against revolution/ genocide), prestige/material gain, reclamation of lost territory, pre-strike for security reasons, etc. Which are delineated with sensuousness and freedom of writing style. These novelists have presented the theme of war novels through paradox, tragedy, farce, theodicy, anti-Capitalism, The lost generation, betrayal, man’s inhumanity to man, comradeship, Nature, mass violence, internal displacement, identityand Holocaust, the idea of humanity and human goodness, distortion of reality and values, the reality of war, dehumanization of soldiers, loneliness, Death, power, masculinity. Along with war is a state of conflict between different societies or countries, the theme of war novels. Thecommon cause of war is the difference of opinion. Although in some cases, war can help achievepeace at the cost of peace, which is a loss of life and

property. The overall comparative study will be from the perspective of modernism and postmodernism.

### Chapter VI: Conclusion

In the last chapter, the conclusion will be based on the assumptions established in previous cases. This chapter will summarize the arguments presented in all previous cases. Thefindings of the research will be presented after serious consideration of the subject. Whatever the conclusion, the results of the research will be included in this case. It will also explore further avenues in this area of research.

## 11) Expected Outcome:

Further results are expected in this research work.

- It will bring awareness among the people to the concept of war novels.
- It will explain the concept of war novels from different perspectives.
- It will provide information on how to deal with war situations in future life.

## 12) Bibliography:

- **Primary Sources**


1) Remarque, Erich Maria, 1898-1970. *All Quiet on the Western Front.* New York:Fawcett Crest, 1975.
2) Heller, Joseph, 1798-1849. *Catch-22,* a Novel. New York: The Modern Library,1961.
3) Grossman, Vasily, 1905-1964. *Life and Fate.* Translated by Robert Chandler,NYRB Classics, 1980.
4) De Groot, Gerard J. The First World War. Basingstoke: Palgrave. 2001.
5) Hart, Peter. The Great War: A Combat History of the First World War. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2013.
6) Thomas, Hugh, The Spanish Civil War. Penguin Books Ltd., 2003.
7) Shirer, William L., The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich. Simon & Schuster. 1960.

8) Gladwell, Malcolm. The Bomber Mafia: A Dream, a Temptation, and The Longest Night of the Second World War. Little, Brown and Company. 2021.

- **Secondary Source**

1) Abrams, M. H., & Harpham, G. G. *A Handbook of Literary Terms*. New Delhi, India. 2017. Print.
2) Baldick, Chris. *Criticism and Literary theory 1890 to Present*. London: Longman, 1988.
3) Taylor, Alan John Percivale. *The First World War: An Illustrated History*. Hamish Hamilton, 1963.
4) Brunstedt, Jonathan. *The Soviet Myth of World War II: Patriotic Memory and the Russian Question in the USSR (Studies in the Social and Cultural History of Modern Warfare).* Cambridge University Press, 2021.

- **Web**

1. http://www.wikipedia
2. http://www.google.com
3. http://shodhganga.com

Research Scholar

**Mr Jadhav Ganesh Shankarrao**

Research Supervisor

**Dr Kiran Wamanrao Gutte**

(M. A., M. Phil., PhD.)

Asst. Professor, Department of English,
Shivaji Mahavidyalaya, Udgir Dist-
Latur (M.S.)

Dr. Kiran W. Gutte
Research Supervisor
Department of English
Shivaji Mahavidyalaya,Udgir
Dist.Latur Pin-413517 (M.S.)